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6-1-1988

Recommended Citation
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TRIBUTE TO WADE MCCREE

Griffin Bell*

Judge Wade McCree, as we affectionately referred to him even after he had left the bench to become Solicitor General, was a joy as a friend and colleague and a treasure as a public servant and man of the law.

I first met Judge McCree more than twenty years ago when we were both serving as federal judges. I spent many hours with him on the American Bar Association Commission on Standards of Judicial Administration. We worked together on the Pound Conference and on the Pound Conference follow-up task force. His fine mind and his sensitive and compassionate views were well known and undoubted. His pleasing personality smoothed the waters in many tough situations, always bringing progress in an atmosphere of good spirit.

Judge McCree was a great Solicitor General, and we have had many outstanding Solicitors General. He served throughout the administration of President Carter and for several months into the administration of President Reagan. His relations in the Department and with the Supreme Court were of the first order. He appreciated the role of the Solicitor General as an officer of the Supreme Court and as an office which had a high responsibility in the administration of justice by the Supreme Court. He carried out his role with honor and to the fullest. On a number of occasions he had to assume the role of the Attorney General when others in the Department were disqualified or chose to recuse themselves, and again his performance was always admirable. He would have served well as the Attorney General or in any cabinet post.

Judge McCree was blessed in his marriage. Dores, as she was affectionately known to us, was equally bright and personable and a great supporter of Wade. She took delight in his progress and in all aspects of his career. Their three fine children reflect the virtues of their mother and father and a strong family relationship.

We miss Judge McCree. He will be missed for a long time. God does not favor us with many Wade McCrees, and thus we are unlikely to be blessed any time soon with another like him.
